



Green Mountain
Animal Defenders

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September 15, 1999

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061

Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is concerning the FDA's responsibility to take action against the factory farming practices that occur throughout this country. Much of what goes on in these factories is both inhumane and unsafe. Green Mountain Animal Defenders, and our over 750 Vermont members, are particularly concerned with the forced molting of hens.

Many of the millions of hens that are starved will die as a result of that starvation. The forced and rapid molting that occurs also indirectly causes more Salmonella to be produced. The contaminated eggs are something that the FDA cannot overlook.

It is time that the United States follows the examples set by other countries. Forced molting was banned in Great Britain 12 years ago. Most countries in Europe currently have regulations concerning molting and starvation periods that the hens endure. The U. S., however, has no laws in relation to this issue. The FDA has a clear responsibility to protect the health of U.S. citizens by banning practices which may certainly harms humans as well as animals.

Respectfully,

Katherine Ludwig

Green Mountain Animal Defenders

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Burlington, Vermont 05406

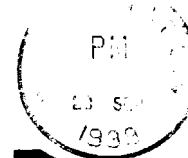
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C699

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C700
96P-0418/C699